



(S//SI) Collecting in Afghanistan

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(S//SI) Last summer, U.S. military officials generated an intelligence requirement for NSA: they needed a quick reaction capability system for locally collecting against High Power Cordless Phones (HPCP) used by suspected al-Qa'ida and Taliban forces in Afghanistan. Remarkably, it took Data Acquisition's Tactical Platforms organization only 60 days to build, test, and field a system to satisfy this requirement.

(S//SI) The result was MINUTEMAN PROMETHEUS, a Pelican case-mounted, man-portable system. Tactical Platforms used commercially-available technology and existing hardware/software and built them into a unique system designed from the ground up, which enabled a low cost per system. The project was a joint effort, with MINUTEMAN acting as deployment lead and providing hardware, MUSKETEER providing software, and the Army Cryptologic Office providing technical and financial mission support.

(S//SI) Deployment of this capability allows Special Forces teams to conduct close-in collection against adversaries in Afghan "hot spots" to obtain real-time indications and warning and targeting information. MINUTEMAN PROMETHEUS serves as an example of how, through collaboration, SID can use existing capabilities to respond quickly to customer needs. With the collection environment evolving at an ever-increasing pace, this adaptability will help us stay a step ahead of the game!

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